

planar with the support ledge 48. The stops 50 engage the sterile field tray 24 to hold it to one side of the main tray 26 and, in addition, generally define a pair of compartments 52, 54 within the main tray 26. The compartment 52 is generally located on the side of the stops 50 where the sterile field tray 24 is held while the compartment 54 occupies the adjacent side of the main tray 26.

[0048] As illustrated in FIG. 6, each compartment 52, 54 includes a generally planar floor 56, 58, respectively. The floor 56 of compartment 52 is at a lower height than the floor 58 of compartment 54. That is, there is a greater height difference between the top of the main tray 26 and the floor 56 than the height difference between the top of the main tray 26 and the floor 58. Accordingly, a height H1 of a space S1 between the floor 56 and the top of the main tray 26 is greater than the height H2 of a space S2 between the floor 58 and the top of the main tray 26. Advantageously, the height H1 is sized such that the floor 56 will not interfere with the bottom of the sterile field tray 24. Similarly, the height H2 is sized such that certain other supplies may be held within the space S2, as will be described below.

[0049] With reference to FIG. 5, a plurality of recesses 60 are formed into the main tray 26. The recesses 60 are shaped such that a corresponding item of the pain management kit 10 will fit within the recess 60 and, preferably, below the height of the floor 56, 58 that surrounds the recess 60. As illustrated, one or more of the recesses 60 may be disposed partially in each of the compartments 52, 54 of the main tray 26. Accordingly, such recesses 60 may be surrounded partially by each of the floors 56, 58, which are at different heights. In addition, a general recess 60a is provided which is generally rectangular in shape and may contain one or more items not necessarily of a corresponding shape.

[0050] Additionally, a plurality of access channels 62 and access depressions 64 are formed into the main tray 26 proximate to one or more recesses 60. Generally, the access channels 62 extend across, and connect, more than one recess 60, while the access depressions 64 communicate with a single recess 60. Both the access channels 62 and the access depressions 64 provide a space for fingers of a user of the pain management kit 10 when grasping a desired item and extract it from its recess 60.

[0051] Preferably, the items in the kit 10 that are relatively small and/or fragile (e.g., needles, syringes and vials) are held within a recess 60 of a generally corresponding size and shape. Other larger and/or less fragile items may be placed on top of the items contained in the recesses 60 in the spaces S1 or S2. As previously described, the sterile field tray 24 is preferably disposed within the space S1, while additional items may be disposed in the space S2, as is described below.

[0052] The remaining items in the illustrated pain management kit 10 fall into generally two categories: (1) medical supplies necessary or desired to perform a local anesthetic procedure and (2) medical supplies necessary or desired to perform the continuous nerve block procedure. These remaining items are generally contained in one of the recesses 60 or 60a and the space S2.

[0053] The local anesthetic supply contained in the kit 10 for performance of a local anesthetic procedure preferably includes a variety of needles, one or more vials of a local

anesthetic, one or more vials of a sodium chloride solution and one or more syringes. In the presently illustrated embodiment, two needles 68, 70 are contained within the kit 10, including a 22 gage×1.5" needle 68 and a 25 gage×1.5" needle 70. Of course, needles of other sizes and diameters may be provided, as well as a greater or lesser quantity of needles, depending upon the desired application of the pain management kit 10.

[0054] The illustrated embodiment of the pain management kit 10 also contains a 3 cc plastic syringe 72 and a 5 cc plastic syringe 74. As will be appreciated by one of skill in the art, syringes of different sizes and material types may be substituted for the previously described syringes 72, 74, and a greater or lesser quantity of syringes may be included with the kit 10.

[0055] Additionally, the local anesthetic supply of the illustrated embodiment include a 5 ml vial of 1.0% Lidocaine solution 76 and a 5 ml vial of 1.5% Lidocaine solution 78 for use as a local anesthetic and a 10 ml vial of 0.9% Sodium Chloride solution 80. The Sodium Chloride solution 80 is useful to flush syringes and needles, as well as, a dilutant or solvent for other drugs, such as the Lidocaine solutions 76 or 78. Of course, other local anesthetic drugs and/or other dilutants or solvents may be used, in different strengths and quantities.

[0056] The nerve block supply contained within the pain management kit 10 preferably includes a Tuohy-type epidural needle 82, a needle extension assembly 84, a glass syringe 86, a plastic syringe 88, a filter needle 89, a catheter assembly 90 and an infusion system 92. Preferably, these supplies comprise the primary items necessary or desired to perform the continuous nerve block portion of the pain management procedure. A small number of additional, non-disposable supplies may also be necessary or desired, as will be described below.

[0057] The epidural needle 82 is preferably a 17 gage×3.5" Tuohy-type needle, as is known in the art. The epidural needle 82 preferably includes an integrated wire 83, or wires, constructed such that, when the wire 83 is connected to a power source, an electrical current may flow through the needle 82. Preferably, all but a distal tip portion of the needle 82 is insulated, such that substantially no current will pass from the needle to another conductive object, except through the uninsulated tip portion. Needles of the type described immediately above are commercially available.

[0058] The needle extension assembly 84 is a commercially available item primarily comprised of a tube with connectors at either end. A connector at one end of the needle extension 84 is preferably configured such that it will connect to the proximal end of the epidural needle 82. The other connector is preferably configured to connect to a variety of standard syringes. Thus, the needle extension assembly 84 is primarily useful for connecting a syringe to the epidural needle 82 and allowing fluid communication therebetween. In addition, a clamp may be provided on the needle extension assembly 84 which is operable to selectively compress the tube in order to occlude fluid flow.

[0059] The glass syringe 86 is preferably of a standard, 5 cc capacity variety. The glass syringe 86 is preferably capable of connection with the above-described needle extension assembly 84, thereby being useful to inject a